

# COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

## TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
March 31, 2005

Contact: Robert White/Drew Crockett  
(202) 225-5074

### Davis Statement on SARA Implementation

Washington, D.C. – Chairman Tom Davis issued the following statement today on the General Accounting Office (GAO) report titled, *GAO-05-233 Federal Acquisition – Progress in Implementing the Services Acquisition Reform of 2003*:

“Today’s report requested by the Government Reform Committee demonstrates mixed progress regarding the implementation of the 14 provisions contained in the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003 (SARA) that require action by the Administration. While I’m encouraged by the progress of the Administration in some areas, I feel that the implementation should be further along, nearly one-and-a-half years after enactment of SARA.

“It appears that the necessary rulemaking procedures to allow many of the provisions to take full effect have been exceedingly slow in some areas. In accordance with the legislation, OPM established the workforce training fund, but has yet to finalize rulemaking that would allow agencies to determine if there are acquisition workforce shortages. Until it has the ability to detect such shortages, it will be difficult to recruit and directly hire qualified candidates. I’m pleased by the establishment of the Chief Acquisition Officers (CAO) Council; however, once again, rulemaking is still not in place to require oversight of certain contracts by licensed professional engineers.

“Implementation of the critical commercial acquisition provisions has also been a mixed bag. Rulemaking to encourage increased use of performance-based contracting is close to being finalized. Additionally, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) established the center of excellence for services. However, rulemaking to allow the use of time-and-materials and labor-hour contracts for procurement of commercial services is moving slowly. In the area of procurement flexibilities, rulemaking allowing special emergency authority has been finalized, but nothing has been done to allow agencies to use other transactions authority.

“SARA is targeted towards the goal of a modern, responsive, flexible, market-based acquisition system that will result in the government leveraging the best the private sector has to offer at fair and reasonable prices. In fiscal year 2004, government-wide spending on services contracts grew to more than \$189 billion; the faster the administration can fully implement these provisions, the more effective our contract personnel will be in acquiring those services.”

###

